



poder popular



para la salud del pueblo

I'm Sandra Carmona from the National Latino Research Center at California State University San Marcos and I am a representative of the Farm worker CARE Coalition.

The National Latino Research Center (NLRC) was founded in 1998 with the mission of promoting research, education, and the exchange of information related to Latino and under-served populations in the United States. We coordinate the Farmworker CARE Coalition in North San Diego County.

*The Farmworker CARE Coalition is comprised of a group of agencies, individuals and community members with the vision to **"To recognize farm workers as a vibrant part of the community and to improve their living, working and health conditions, and access to health, social and educational services through empowerment, advocacy, and coordinated efforts."***

We are part of a larger network of groups working state wide to improve the living and working conditions for farm workers called Poder Popular para la Salud del Pueblo, a community-building initiative aimed at supporting healthy conditions in the fields, communities, health care, media and civic life in ten of the state's agricultural areas funded by The California Endowment. Our work has as its primary goal to bring together agricultural workers, community, health and civic leaders—with the single goal of improving the living, working and health conditions in farmworker communities.

Our vision for California agriculture includes addressing all the disparities that farm workers face today. Our recommendations include:

- 1) Fair living wages and working hours that include a strategy for year round work and work benefits
- 2) Better living conditions
- 3) Clean air, water and electricity
- 4) Food banks in all agricultural communities
- 5) A pathway to legal status

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- 6) Health care coverage that is accessible and offers binational coverage
- 7) Increased laws and regulations for safe and healthy working conditions
- 8) Investments towards building healthy communities that include, community security, resources, recreation and civic participation
- 9) Increased opportunities for advancement and personal development
- 10) Collaboration with countries of origin

Challenges to achieving this vision in California are at a global scale. NAFTA (North American Free Trade Agreement) and CAFTA (Central America Free Trade Agreement) determine the fiscal impact on California agriculture and greatly impact the quality of life for those in the industry. Likewise, strong anti-Immigration laws in this country will continue to conflict with this vision.

We strongly recommend making this session culturally sensitive and accessible to those who work directly in the fields, the farm workers themselves.

Please let me know if I can provide additional information.

Sincerely,

Sandra Carmona
Field Project Coordinator